review of all its existing schemes and set up user feedback Committee at seven regional offices to assess impact of various programmes to bring out qualitative changes in higher education in Eleventh Plan;

(b) whether academic review would be undertaken in collaboration with the State Councils for Higher Education in various States;

(c) whether reports of these exercises would be used as inputs to the proposals for higher education in Eleventh Plan; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), user feedback committees have been set up for the South Western Regional Office (SWRO) and Eastern Regional Office (ERO) of the UGC, Directors of Collegiate Education, Directors of College Development Councils and Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson of the State Councils of Higher Education are members of the committee. Reports are used as inputs by the Committees and the Commission and would continue to be useful inputs for the finalization of the XI Plan proposals.

Merit based Scholarship Schemes

1985. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to help meritorious students to pursue the course of their choice with the newly announced two merit-based scholarships schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(d) the criteria set for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. University Grants Commission (UGC) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have announced scholarships for meritorious students. CBSE has started two new Merit Based Scholarship Schemes:

(i) CBSE Merit Scholarship Scheme for Professional Studies and

(ii) CBSE Merit Scholarship Scheme for Under-Graduate Students.

Under the Professional Merit Scholarship Scheme, the students appearing in the merit list of All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT) and All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) conducted by the CBSE and pursuing medicine/engineering course in the Institutes participating in the CBSE conducted AIPMT/AIEEE or in the Central Government controlled or aided institution will be given scholarship @Rs. 1000/- per month. Under the Scheme, a total of 500 such scholarships will be awarded every year.

Under the Under-Graduate Merit Scholarship Scheme, the students appearing in the merit list of Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE and pursuing non-medical/non-engineering undergraduate course in a Central University or State University or any other University recognized by the UGC will be given scholarship at the rate of Rs. 500/- per month. Under the scheme, a total of 550 such scholarships will be awarded every year.

UGC has also introduced two Merit Scholarships:

(i) Post-Graduate Scholarship for University Rank Holders and

(ii) Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scheme for Single Girl Child.

Both the scholarships are available for non professional courses only.

Under the PG Merit Scholarship, a student should have passed B.A./ B.Sc./B.Com. and Honours and should be 1st rank holder in the subject at University. He should have also taken admission in the Ist year PG course in any recognized University in India. A total of 1800 scholarships for general courses and 575 scholarships for Honours courses will be awarded every year at the rate of Rs. 2000/- per month.

Under the Indira Gandhi Scholarship, the candidate should have passed undergraduate degree course and taken admission in the first year of PG Course. The student should be the only girl child of her parents. A total of 1200 scholarships will be awarded every year at the rate of Rs. 2000/- per month.

Merit is the only criteria for selection in all scholarships. Besides, the student must be an Indian Naitonal, and must continue his/her studies as required under the scheme and should not be in any full time employment.

The total financial implication in respect of these scholarships is about Rs. 93 lakhs per annum for CBSE and Rs. 710 lakhs for UGC.